

Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 DHA-02 INSE-00 VO-03 SCA-01 AID-05

ITFE-00 /023 R

DRAFTED BY D/HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN:PJS

APPROVED BY D/HA:JLCARLIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 303634

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT:LAO PAROLE PROGRAM

REF: (A) BANGKOK 26508 (B) STATE 299563

1. DEPARTMENT NOTES THAT EMBASSY ALREADY APPEARS TO HAVE EXCEEDED LAO QUOTA MINUS RESERVE NUMBERS SPECIFIED REF B. WITH 2995 A NUMBERS ASSIGNED, THIS LEAVES ONLY 405 SPACES FOR THE RESERVE OF 423 SPECIFIED REFTEL. WE RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS PROBABLE THIS DISCREPANCY MAY BE MADE UP THROUGH "FREED" A NUMBERS.

2. GIVEN CONTINUING PRESSURE OF APPLICATIONS, WE BELIEVE REMAINING SPACES IN THIS PROGRAM SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED ONLY ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. IN THE CASE OF SPACES RESERVED FOR USG EMPLOYEES IN VIENTIANE, WE UNDERSTAND THESE ARE BEING USED AFTER CONSULTATION WITH EMBASSY VIENTIANE. IN THE CASE OF 200 SPACES RESERVED FOR FUTURE URGENT CASES, REQUEST CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT PRIOR TO THEIR USE. THE DEPARTMENT WILL, OF COURSE, ASSIGN THE 50 NUMBERS RESERVED FOR WORLD WIDE USE AND WILL RETURN THE UNUSED PORTION OF THIS ALLOCATION TO BANGKOK IN THE FUTURE.

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TION OF THIS ALLOCATION TO BANGKOK IN THE FUTURE.

3. WE NOTE THAT COLUMN E IN REF A CONTAINS 571 CAT I AND II APPLICANTS. WITH ALL SPACES WITHER ALREADY ASSIGNED A NUM-

BERS OR RESERVED, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT WE NOW FACE A RESIDUE OF CAT I AND II APPLICANTS IN THE LAO PROGRAM SIMILAR TO THAT ALREADY POSED BY THE VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN PROGRAM. SOME OF THESE APPLICANTS MAY BE FOUND TO BE FRAUDULENT AND OTHERS MAY BE ACCOMMODATED THROUGH FREED A NUMBERS. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT EMBASSY SHOULD CONSIDER THREE OTHER POSSIBILITIES IN DEALING WITH THIS GROUP:

A. APPLICANTS SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT WE ARE NEAR THE END OF THE LAO PROGRAM AND THAT IF THEY HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO GO TO OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES IT WOULD BE IN THEIR INTEREST TO CONSIDER THESE VERY SERIOUSLY.

B. REMAINING CAT I AND II REFUGEE PRINCIPALS PROBABLY CANNOT BE ALLOWED, AS IN THE PAST, TO BRING ALL RELATIVES CURRENTLY TRAVELING WITH THEM. INSTEAD, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THEY SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO SPOUSE, CHILDREN, PARENTS, AND MINOR UNMARRIED SIBLINGS.

C. WHILE IT IS UNQUESTIONABLY DIFFICULT TO WITHDRAW A NUMBERS, ONCE ASSIGNED, EMBASSY SHOULD CONSIDER WHETHER IT IS NECESSARY TO FURTHER DESELECT REFUGEES FROM AMONG THOSE 2995 TO WHOM A NUMBERS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE MORE URGENT PRIORITIES. IF SO, DEPARTMENT WOULD REQUIRE IMMEDIATE NOTIFICATION SINCE WE EXPECT SHORTLY TO ASSIGN THESE CASES TO VOLAGS FOR SPONSOR VERIFICATION.

4. TAKING ABOVE INTO ACCOUNT, PLEASE PROVIDE UPDATED SITUATION REPORT SOONEST. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PAROLE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE303634
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SCLOWMAN:PJS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750449-0086
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751210/aaaaaiio.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ORM
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BANGKOK 26508, 76 STATE 299563
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <10 Jun 2003 by MorefiRH, INA>; RELEASED <17 MAR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AO PAROLE PROGRAM
TAGS: SREF, CVIS, LA, TH
To: BANGKOK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006